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From: PIO, PID, Dhaka
Fax: 9540553/9540026
E-mail: piddhaka@gmail.com
Web: www.pressinform.gov.bd

News Brief

President Md. Abdul Hamid has stressed on concentrating to the invention of befitting and appropriate technologies through which the people can stand on their own feet. The Head of the State made the emphasis while addressing the fifth convocation of Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology in Rajshahi yesterday. The President in his address came down heavily on those mixing formalin with fruits and urged politicians, teachers, students and all concerned to gear up campaign against the adulteration of foods and the unscrupulous traders. The convocation ceremony conferred degrees on 2,586 engineering students. Director of Virginia Tech Advanced Research Institute in the United States Saifur Rahman attended the function as the convocation speaker.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina arrived in Madrid yesterday afternoon on a three-day official visit to Spain to join the "Heads of State and Government Summit" of the 25th Annual Conference of Parties (COP25). A Biman Bangladesh Airlines special flight carrying the Premier and her entourage members landed at the Madrid Torrejon Airport at 5:40pm local time. Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the World Tourism Organization Hassan Mahmood Khandker received the Prime Minister at the airport. Today the Premier will attend the inaugural ceremony of the COP25 at Feria de Madrid. Later, she will join a general roundtable titled "National plans to increase ambition by 2020". She will later join a dialogue titled "Enhancing Action Together" between governments and civil society. On the sidelines, the Premier is scheduled to hold meetings with Spanish President Pedro Sanchez and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte. The Prime Minister will join a reception to be hosted by the King and the Queen of Spain at Royal Palace this evening.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has condemned in strongest terms the Friday's London Bridge attack. In a message sent to British Prime Minister Boris Johnson yesterday, Sheikh Hasina expressed profound shock to the family members killed in the London attack. She also conveyed sympathy to the injured persons and prayed for their early recovery.

Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader has said, amid huge parking space crisis, Dhaka Transport Coordination Authority has approved 64 parking spots in the city. He revealed the information to media after a board meeting of DTCA at Nagar Bhaban in Dhaka yesterday. The meeting also decided to shift all inter district bus terminals of Dhaka city upon ensuring alternative places outside Dhaka.

Information Minister Dr Hasan Mahmud has castigated BNP as the forerunner of terrorism and corruption in the country as the party had patronized beyond doubt the menaces of terrorism and corruption, multiplying woes of the people. He said this while speaking at a press briefing after a meeting at Awami League President's political office in city's Dhanmondi yesterday. Terming the terrorist activities of BNP as unprecedented in the world, Hasan Mahmud said BNP had tried to kill the then opposition leader, AL President and incumbent Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina by grenade attack in the broad day light.

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal has said, the government is set to form a panel with the task of bringing interest rates down to a single digit. He gave the information to media after a meeting with leaders of the banking sector in Dhaka yesterday. He said, a seven-member committee led by a deputy governor of the central bank will be formed.

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced three people to life imprisonment in a case lodged over the deaths of Shaheed Ramiz Uddin Cantonment College students Abdul Karim Razib

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and Dia Khanam Mim in a road accident last year. Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge Imrul Qayes passed the judgement, sentencing bus drivers of Jabal-e-Noor Paribahan, Masum Billah and Jubayer Sumon and helper Kaji Asad to life imprisonment. The court also fined the convicts Taka 50 thousand each, to suffer six months imprisonment more in default.

Law Minister Anisul Huq talking to media in Gulshan yesterday expressed satisfaction over verdict on the deaths of Razib and Dia and said the judgment would be a milestone. The Minister addressing a function on the occasion of final and prize distribution ceremony of an anti-violence national debate competition at the FDC in Dhaka yesterday warned that those who would carry out violence against women must suffer the maximum punishment. He said, the speedy trial of the Nusrat murder case can help come out of the culture of impunity by ensuring justice and establishing equity among men and women.

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Zahid Maleque has said, an HIV testing service will be launched across the country in 2020. He revealed the information while addressing a programme marking 'World AIDS Day' at the Krishibid Institute in Dhaka yesterday. He also inaugurated a fair over awareness of AIDS on the occasion.

Education Minister Dipu Moni has said children diagnosed with autism are not burdens to society; rather they have special talents in many cases. She made the remarks while speaking at a seminar organized by National Academy for Autism and Neuro-developmental Disability Project in Dhaka yesterday. The Minister said, the government has trained over 30,000 teachers on autism.

Post and Telecommunications Minister Mustafa Jabbar while addressing the 'Shoto borshe Bangabandhu: 2020' programme arranged by the National Freedom Fighters Foundation in Dhaka yesterday said, the War of Liberation was the culmination of Bangabandhu's lifelong struggle to establish a developed country, focusing on Bangla language and culture.

The 22nd anniversary of Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord will be observed today through various programmes. The accord was signed on December 2 in 1997 between the government and the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samiti during the first tenure of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, ending bloody conflicts in three hill districts. State Minister for Information Dr Murad Hasan while addressing a roundtable discussion on CHT Peace Accord at the Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka yesterday said, most of the provisions of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord have been implemented while the rest will also be implemented gradually and there is no dearth in Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's sincerity to implement the treaty.

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Surath Kumar Sarker
Principal Information Officer
Phone- 9546091